(c) and (d) No Sir. Government realizes revenue only from channels which are permitted. Though, the transmission of illegal channel is an offence under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, no security related concern in this respect has been brought to the notice of this Ministry. However, in order to ensure that no unregistered channel is carried on the cable network, monitoring committees have been constituted at the State level and at the District level. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 has provision for authorized officers which include District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Commissioners of Police to take action against the cable operators in case of carriage of unregistered channels.

Media coverage of sensitive incidents

3456. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized guidelines for live coverage of sensitive incidents like the Mumbai terror attacks by the electronic media; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of entertainment and news channels

3457. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a large number of demands for setting up of new entertainment and news channels;

(b) if so, whether Government has drawn up any parameters on eligibility of the applicants and viability of the channel to ensure job security for their employees;

(c) whether Government has also assessed the extent of availability of spectrum needed for setting up of new channels in consultation with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) Yes Sir. Many applications have been received for permission for new channels. As on date, 157 applications are pending for permission to uplink from India and 14 applications are pending for permission to downlink in India.

(b) Detailed eligibility criteria and other requirements for private satellite TV channels have been prescribed in the Guidelines for Uplinking from India and Policy Guidelines for Downlinking of Television Channels. The Guidelines do not provide for job security of the employees of the channels.

(c) and (d) A reference has been made by this Ministry to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in October 2009. Among other things, TRAI has been requested to examine the maximum number of channels which can be permitted in the country keeping in view the available spectrum and transponder capacities as well as technological developments and general practice internationally.